

CLAIMS

1. Process for the preparation of lactams comprising 6 to 12 carbon atoms from the corresponding cycloalkanone oximes by rearrangement according to the Beckmann reaction in the presence of acid, characterized in that use is made of methanesulphonic acid.

2. ^{A P} Process according to Claim 1, ^{wherein} characterized in that the cycloalkanone oxime is ~~used~~ in the form of a solution comprising 10 to 40% by weight of oxime in methanesulphonic acid.

3. ^{A P} Process according to Claim 2, ^{wherein} characterized in that the solution comprises 25 to 35% by weight of oxime.

4. Process according to one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the strength by weight of the methanesulphonic acid is between 70 and 90%.

5. Process according to one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the reaction is carried out at a temperature of between 120 and 180°C.

6. Process according to one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the reaction is carried out with stirring which exhibits a Reynolds number of greater than 10,000.

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